

# EXPERIENCE THE HISTORY

WELCOME TO OLD CAPISTRANO, HOME OF THE "JEWEL OF THE MISSIONS" LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALONG THE GOLD COAST. JUNIPERO SERRA FOUNDED MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO IN 1776, THE SEVENTH OF 21 SPANISH MISSIONS ESTABLISHED IN CALIFORNIA BY FRANCISCAN PADRES. SPAIN CONTROLLED CALIFORNIA UNTIL 1821 WHEN MEXICO WON ITS INDEPENDENCE. IN 1845, THE MISSION WAS SOLD TO DON JUAN FORSTER FOR \$710, PAID FOR IN HIDES AND TALLOW. PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN RETURNED THE MISSION TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN 1865. THIS RURAL FARMING AND RANCHING COMMUNITY, POPULATION 33,000, HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY ART, LIVING HISTORY AND CULTURAL CELEBRATION FOR OVER 200 YEARS.



## THE MYSTERY

WITHIN THE MISSION WALLS LIES THE MYSTERIOUS RUIN OF THE GREAT STONE CHURCH. THIS MAGNIFICENT ROMAN GRECO STYLE CATHEDRAL ONCE ROSE HIGH IN THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS UNTIL IT WAS DESTROYED ONLY SIX YEARS AFTER IT'S COMPLETION IN THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1812. MANY OF THE FORTY PARISHIONERS WHO PERISHED IN THE RUBBLE ARE BURIED IN THE MISSION CEMETERY. SIX YEARS AFTER THE TRAGEDY, IN THE EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 14, 1818, THE MISSION WAS RANSACKED BY PIRATES IN A SURPRISE ATTACK BY HIPPOLYTE BOUCHARD AND HIS PIRATE CREW WHO HAD DROPPED ANCHOR IN SAN JUAN BAY IN SEARCH OF PLUNDER!



## THE ROMANCE

TODAY, THE MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO IS A PLACE OF PEACE AND UNSURPASSED BEAUTY, ITS GARDENS A HAVEN FOR LADY BUGS, HUMMING BIRDS AND THE FAMOUS SWALLOWS OF CAPISTRANO WHO ARRIVE EVERY SPRING TO NEST AND HAVE THEIR YOUNG, RETURNING TO ARGENTINA IN THE AUTUMN. THE ROMANCE OF EARLY CALIFORNIA IS ALIVE AS YOU SHARE THE HISTORIC STREETS WITH PIRATES AND PADRES, LORDS AND LADIES, RANCHEROS AND THE ACJACHEMEM NATION, THE NATIVE POPULATION WHO LABORED WITH THE SPANISH TO BUILD THE MISSION AND ONCE ALONE INHABITED THE CAPISTRANO VALLEY.

